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108432

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

FILE NO. 100-2385

REPORT MADE AT SAINT PAUL, MINN.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/25/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/24/42	REPORT MADE BY J. W. MOWBRAY RS
TITLE ESTHER LEE MEDALIE	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C		

gc
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: ESTHER LEE MEDALIE, student at the University of Minnesota, reported being a leader of the American Youth Congress, Young Communist League and American Student Union on the University of Minnesota campus.

- P -

DETAILS: This report is based upon information contained in the American Youth Congress files of the St. Paul Field Division from report of Special Agent R. T. NOONAN, dated February 1, 1941, in which there is set forth information to the effect that ESTHER LEE MEDALIE heads the American Youth Congress on the University of Minnesota campus. This information was reported by former Dean NICHOLSON, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Also in a review of the files of the St. Paul Field Division and report of Special Agent R. T. NOONAN, dated February 1, 1942 entitled American Student Union, subject is classed as leader of the American Student Union on University of Minnesota Campus. This information was also turned in by former dean NICHOLSON, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Father ~~HORHEY~~ in charge of Catholic activities on the University of Minnesota Campus, with offices in Newman Hall, reported to Special Agent L. S. GOODROW that ESTHER LEE MEDALIE was one of the leaders of the Young Communists at the University and also an individual who should be watched in the future.

EDWARD WILLIAMSON, present dean of Student Affairs, University of Minnesota, was interviewed and advised that ESTHER LEE MEDALIE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>John J. Healy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-108432-1	RECORDED SE & INDEXED
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100-2385

was a graduate student in psychology during the year 1941. He stated this young woman was a very good student, and had at different times expressed liberal ideas, and the trend toward liberal thinking, but stated he had never noticed any Communistic sympathies or affiliations with the young woman.

Dean WILLIAMSON explained, however, that he was not too well acquainted with subject, and therefore his information could not be of the best.

100-2385

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE SAINT PAUL FIELD DIVISION

AT SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Will ascertain the present residence address and business address of ESTHER LEE MEDALIE. It is believed this information can be obtained from the University of Minnesota files.

Will interview Father FORHEY in charge of Catholic activities of the University of Minnesota Campus, whose offices are in Newman Hall for more complete background and information concerning subject, with particular reference to her Communistic activities.

-----P E N D I N G-----

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SAINT PAUL

FILE NO. 100-2385

REPORT MADE AT SAINT PAUL	DATE WHEN MADE 6-23-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-8,9-42	REPORT MADE BY W. I. STAPLES KLH
TITLE CHANGED ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject a former student University of Minnesota; was born in Buhl, Minnesota, on May 16, 1918, and while attending the University resided at 3200 Humboldt Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was a leader in the American Youth Congress and Young Communist League on the Minnesota campus and is stated to be one of the most well-educated Stalinists ever to attend the University. Presently employed by O.P.A. in Washington, D. C., or New York City.

-- C --

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent J. W. MOWBRAY dated May 25, 1942, at St. Paul.

DETAILS: The title in the instant case is being changed to reflect the subject's true name of ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, rather than ESTHER LEE MEDALIE.

On June 8, 1942, the writer contacted Miss AMY BELL McKINNON, information clerk at the University of Minnesota, who furnished the writer with a record reflecting the following information concerning the subject:

The subject, ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, resided at 3200 Humboldt Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, while attending the University of Minnesota, and she graduated from the University, receiving her B.A. degree summa cum laude on June 15, 1940.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: C. W. Staples	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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100-2385

She majored in International Relations and completed a minor in Spanish. The subject was born in Buhl, Minnesota, on May 16, 1918, and attended the Washburn High School in Minneapolis, where she graduated on June 7, 1935.

On October 1, 1940, the subject entered the graduate school at the University of Minnesota and completed one semester of graduate work in International Relations.

Father ~~FORHEY~~, who is in charge of Catholic activities on the University of Minnesota campus, was interviewed at Newman Hall on the Minnesota campus and stated that he had had several conversations with the subject and had found her to be one of the most brilliant Stalinists that he had ever known. He stated that the subject was a Jewess, possessing an extremely brilliant mind. Father ~~FORHEY~~ stated that the subject had been very active in the American Youth Congress and the Young Communist League on the Minnesota campus and had often debated various issues tending to reflect her Communistic viewpoint. While she was in attendance at the University as a graduate student, she was on the editorial staff of the student "Daily," and from September, 1940, until December, 1940, wrote, or supervised the writing of, many of the editorial articles appearing in this newspaper, many of which were very radical. Father ~~FORHEY~~ stated that there were several individuals who would be able to furnish some further information concerning the subject, and among these were ROBERT NEUMANN, an instructor in political science at the Oshkosh State Teachers College at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, who will be in attendance at the summer session at the University of Minnesota during the summer of 1942; JOHN BJORNSON, who attended the University at the same time as the subject and was replaced as an editorial writer of the student daily by the subject; and VICTOR COHN, editor of the student daily during 1940. Father ~~FORHEY~~ stated that COHN was very liberal in his views but probably would furnish information concerning the subject.

On one occasion Father ~~FORHEY~~ attended a forum at which the subject spoke and criticized the educational policies of members of the faculty, who she called "warmongers," and defied them and their stand in causing the United States to be prepared for any future world conflict.

Father ~~FORHEY~~ stated that he had no idea where the subject was presently residing, but stated that it was his opinion that she was not presently in Minneapolis.

On June 9, 1942, the writer telephoned the residence of the subject's parents and inquired as to whether the subject was at home, and was advised that she

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was not, but that she was presently employed by the Office for Price Administration and was at the present time either in Washington, D. C., or in New York City. Upon further inquiry, it was ascertained that the family did not have the present residence address of the subject, but it was inferred that she had been transferred from Washington to the New York office of the O.P.A. and that the family would receive her new address shortly.

In view of the fact that the subject is presently employed by the Office for Price Administration, no further investigation is being conducted.

- - - - - C L O S E D - - - - -

REB:DS

1000022

September 5, 1942

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: ~~FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OFFICE OF DIRECT ADMINISTRATION
INTERNAL SECURITY, HATCH ACT~~

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to ~~the report of Special Agent W. I. Staples dated June 26, 1942, at 36, Paul, photostatic copies of which report are being forwarded to the New York and Washington Field Offices.~~

In view of the information which you have received, you are authorized to institute an immediate investigation in accordance with the instructions contained in Bureau Bulletin No. 35, First Series, 1941.

You should first verify the exact Government employment of the subject. If it is learned that the person is no longer employed by the Government the Bureau should be so advised by letter. The Internal Security, Hatch Act, case should then be closed. Any further investigation which you deem necessary should be conducted under an Internal Security Classification, and no further consideration need be given to Public Law No. 135, 77th Congress, ~~and superseded by Public Law No. 64, 77th Congress.~~

You should then consult your original source of information and determine whether the data originally reported by you is authentic and may be verified. In the event you find that the original complaint is without factual basis the investigation may then be limited to ap-

Mr. Tolson ~~appropriately~~ interviewing the subject. The investigative report in such Mr. E. A. Tamm ~~case~~ must clearly show the basis for the original inquiry and must Mr. Clegg ~~specifically~~ set out the facts upon which you have determined that a Mr. Glavin ~~comprehensive~~ investigation is unnecessary.

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols ~~If it is determined from the preliminary inquiry that the~~
Mr. Rosen ~~original information~~ is accurate, the entire matter must receive ex-
Mr. Tracy ~~COMMUNICATIONS SECTION~~ ~~particular~~ attention. A complete report containing all pertinent in-
Mr. Carson ~~information~~ and prepared in accordance with the instructions contained
Mr. Coffey ~~in the above-mentioned~~ Bulletin must be submitted within fifteen days
Mr. Hendon ~~SEP 5 1942 P.M.~~

Mr. Kramer ~~In accordance with my previous instructions the utmost care~~
Mr. McGuire ~~FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~ ~~be used~~ in the preparation of this report and in the absence
Mr. Quinn ~~Tamm, S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE~~ ~~of unusual circumstances~~ the entire investigation should be con-
Mr. Nease ~~tained in one report. Inasmuch as copies of these reports are~~
Miss Gandy ~~150 SEP 14 1942 384~~

forwarded directly to the interested Government Agencies there may be no reference to custodial detention matters. Particular care must be given to protecting the identity of the sources of information.

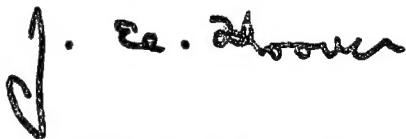
During the interview with the subject, which must be conducted in every case, the questions asked must be concise, pertinent to the case and should not pertain to background information which may have no probative value in developing the investigation. No statements should be made during the interview concerning the identity of the various organizations which have been declared "subversive" in connection with this project. You may ask questions concerning membership in such organizations but no statement should be made to the effect that any particular organization has been designated "subversive."

The only exception to the rule requiring an interview with the subject is in a case where it is shown that the original complaint is false or malicious and the subject has been wrongfully accused.

A complete report must be submitted within 15 days from the receipt of this letter.

A review of Bureau files reflects that Esther Leth Madale is mentioned in the reports of Special Agent T. W. Perrin dated August 25, 1941, at St. Paul, entitled "American Youth Congress, Internal Security - C" and Special Agent J. E. Nowbrough dated February 26, 1943, at St. Paul, in the case entitled "Communist Party in the State of Minnesota, Internal Security - P", copies of which reports were furnished to the New York Field Division. The St. Paul Field Division should therefore conduct an investigation of this person's activities while attending the University of Minnesota and should submit a report of the results of this inquiry. The Washington Field Office should conduct all necessary investigation of this person's activities while she was residing in Washington, D. C. The New York Field Division should be carried as office of origin in the preparation of these reports. All information presently in the possession of your office with respect to the captioned individual should, of course, be summarized in the report which will be submitted upon the completion of this investigation.

Very truly yours,



John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

CC Washington Field
St. Paul (with copies of reference report)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

MCC:LEB
101-2676

September 19, 1942

X

A

B
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - HATCH ACT

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated September 5, 1942. (100-108432)

Please be advised that this office was unable to locate personnel records concerning the captioned individual at the local office of the Office of Price Administration. However, it has been ascertained that her personnel record is undoubtedly in the files of the OPA in New York City. A copy of MISS MEDALIE'S application for employment was found in the files of the Investigative Division, Office for Emergency Management. No investigation has been conducted to date by that organization.

RECORDED

MISS MEDALIE'S application INDEXED 100-108432 indicates she was born May 16, 1918, at Buhl, Minnesota. Her father was born in Russia and her mother was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Her street address is 1909 Avenue K, Brooklyn, New York, and her legal voting residence, Minneapolis, Minnesota. MISS MEDALIE attended high school in 1932-33 at Chisholm, Minnesota, and from 1933-35 attended Washburn High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She received the A.B. Degree "Summa Cum Laude" in International Relations from the University of Minnesota in June, 1940. She took graduate courses in Political Science at the same University during the term 1940-41. She attended Duke University 1941-42, taking courses in Political Science at Durham, North Carolina. It is indicated that she did her graduate work at both universities on honorary fellowships. She indicated that she has had three and one-half years' experience in the Editorial Department of a Minnesota daily.

NOV 3 1942
MISS MEDALIE listed as persons knowing of her ability the

following: L.C.M. 1942

SIRE D. ALDRICH



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Director
Esther Leah Medalie
MCC:LEB
101-2676
September 19, 1942

DR. H. R. WILSON, Department of Political Science,
Duke University.

DR. GEORGE SHIPMAN, OPA, Washington, D. C.

DR. HAROLD S. QUIGLEY, Department of Political Science,
University of Minnesota.

DR. GEORGE SHIPMAN advised Special Agent M. C. CLEMENTS that he recommended MISS MEDALIE for her position in New York City. He stated that she at no time worked in Washington, D. C., and was only in Washington when looking around for a position. He stated that he was rather closely associated with her at Duke University for approximately one year. He stated he observed nothing in her connection that would indicate subversive ideas or affiliations. He recalled that in examining papers in connection with MISS MEDALIE'S fellowship it was noted that she had been very active in student affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Under the title of "Previous Employments", MISS MEDALIE listed the following:

1937-38: NYA Student Worker, University Testing Bureau, University of Minnesota, under MISS JOSEPHINE STEELE.

1938-39: NYA Student Worker, Public Administration, Training Senior, University of Minnesota, under MISS MYRTLE ECKLUND.

1939-40: NYA Student Worker, International Relations Bureau, University of Minnesota, under MR. ARDATH BURKS.

1940-41: Graduate Fellow in Political Science, University of Minnesota, under DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON.

1941: Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota, under DR. EARL G. LATHAM.

Director
Esther Leah Medalie
MCC:LEB
101-2676
September 19, 1942

1941-42: Graduate Fellow in Political Science, Duke University, under DR. R. R. WILSON.

MISS MEDALIE'S father is MATTHEW A. MEDALIE, 3200 South Humboldt, Minneapolis, Minnesota; telephone Locust 5854.

MISS MEDALIE'S application is for the title of Junior Inspector, Price Division, OPA, at \$2,000. The application is dated June 9, 1942. According to DR. GEORGE SHIPMAN, her immediate supervisor is JOHN F. SLY.

Special Agent FRED H. GREEN checked the indices of the Dies Committee, with negative results.

Inasmuch as there is no further investigation apparent for this office, this matter is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.

Very truly yours,

S. K. McKEE

Special Agent in Charge

cc - New York
St. Paul

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-2385

REPORT MADE AT SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA	DATE WHEN MADE 9-22-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-12, 18, 19-42	REPORT MADE BY LEE A. BECKSTEAD KLH
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT	

Deleted

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was born May 16, 1918, at Buhl, Minnesota. Entered University of Minnesota September, 1936; graduated June, 1940; also graduate work, 1940. Reported to be a leader on University of Minnesota campus in the American Youth Congress, Young Communist League, American Student Union, and Minnesota Students' Alliance. Classed as brilliant student, but always associated with Communist and radical groups, and a "heckler" at Forum meetings. Prominent in students' peace strike, and always protested against any form of war, even for self defense. Informants consider as dangerous to this country because of her attitude, interests, and affiliations. Dismissed from Editorial Board of the Minnesota Daily paper because of her admitted Communistic activities and sympathies.

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Reference? -- RUC --

RECD 10/18/42
FBI - BOSTON

DETAILS:

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was born May 16, 1918, at Buhl, Minnesota. The records at the University of Minnesota, as furnished by T-1, reflected that she entered as a student September, 1936, and graduated in June, 1940, and also did graduate work in 1940. She belonged to Sigma Epsilon Sigma in 1937, which is an honorary society for sophomore women. She attended the American Student Union December, 1938. In 1940-41 she was elected a member to the Minnesota Students' Alliance, an organization which formerly was the American Student Union, and is reported to have sponsored lectures on topics that were in disrepute with University authorities during that time. In June, 1940, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, which is a national honorary

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Lee A. Beckstead</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
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society for outstanding scholarship. In the fall of 1940 she was a member of the All-University Peace Council, during which time she was very active on the University of Minnesota campus. On February 8, 1940, she was a representative of the Minnesota Peace Council at the American Student Congress in Washington, D. C. In 1940 she was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, which is an honorary professional society. She graduated in June, 1940, with a B.A. degree, summa cum laude. The records indicated also that she majored in International Relations and completed a minor in Spanish. She was a student of journalism. On October 1, 1940, she entered the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota and completed one semester of graduate work in International Relations. She formerly attended Washburn High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she graduated on June 7, 1935. In May, 1940, she was awarded the Clara Ueland Fellowship. T-1 further informed that Miss MEDALIE received Federal aid as a student in the fall of 1936 and also in the complete years 1937-38 and 1939-40. T-1 likewise informed that she was an editorial writer for the Minnesota Daily. However, no dates were in the record. It was his opinion that most of her writing of editorials was during the years 1939 and 1940.

T-2 informed that Miss MEDALIE was a bright student, but in her first year at the University of Minnesota, through some manner, she got in with the "Red" group, either the Stalinists or Trotskyites. She was always at war with the constituted authorities at the University, and spent too much time on outside activities. T-2 further stated that Miss MEDALIE wrote very well and was capable, but was always leaning to the left. She was prominent at all the Forum meetings, and at these gatherings she was always associated with the known Communistic group, and was in with the group classed as the "hecklers" at the Forum meetings. T-2 informed that Miss MEDALIE was prominent in the students' peace strike at the University of Minnesota, and protested against any form of war, even for self defense.

T-2 considered Miss MEDALIE dangerous to this country because she is so "smart," and always desired to take everything for herself, and would not hesitate to take any steps in opposition with the best judgment of the University authorities.

T-3 informed that he recalled ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE very well as a student at the University of Minnesota. In his opinion she was a brilliant student, or at least she made a big showing, and in his opinion she must have had a pull from some source. He could not say that she was actually a member of

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the Communist Party, because he never saw their membership list, but informed that, at least, Miss MEDALIE was always associated with the Communistic groups, and, therefore, must have been one of them. T-3 further informed that Miss MEDALIE attended the American Youth Congress meeting in Washington, D. C., and was most active in that organization about that time. He knows that she attended some national meetings, and many individuals at the University wondered where she got the money to pay her expenses in attending these meetings, and in his opinion she must have been designated a member to attend the meetings by the Communistic groups, as the student body at the University of Minnesota never sent her nor paid her expenses.

T-3 informed that Miss MEDALIE was always associated with the "radical group," but she was smart and at times would sit back and let someone else do the work. T-3 said that the Forum meetings were pretty much under the direction of the radical group, and after some of these meetings there were many complaints from speakers because of the great amount of heckling during the talks, and T-3 informed that Miss MEDALIE was always associated with this "hecklers" group. T-3 further stated that the hecklers always had their questions written out before the Forum meetings started in order to offer their questions at the right time, and, particularly, put their questions in such a manner as to embarrass the speakers.

T-3 informed that he would class Miss MEDALIE as dangerous to this country, because she is brilliant and knows how to use her brain. He knows her attitude and interests and affiliations and ability, and anyone with these combinations, in his opinion, would be dangerous. He stated Miss MEDALIE was not recognized on the University of Minnesota campus by the women students; that generally they shied away from her. Miss MEDALIE, he said, was at one time connected with the Minnesota Daily, student newspaper, which paper at one time was controlled pretty much by the Communistic group; and that many complaints were made to the University authorities at that time.

T-3 informed that the American Student Union functions through the Peace Council, which is run by the Marxian Social. Further, that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was the head of the American Student Union. He stated that the American Student Union for a time was losing ground on the campus, but in the last year they have been very active again and have increased membership and are being recognized as a student group. He informed that at the time the American Student Union became unpopular, this same group organized as the Minnesota Students' Alliance. In other words, he stated, it was the same group of students operating under a new title.

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T-4 informed that the American Student Union is the Stalinite Communist organization. It is a union of the National Students' League and the Student League for Industrial Democracy. There is a minority fraction which is not Communistic. This group is generally referred to now, according to T-4, as the Minnesota Students' Alliance, and is active at the University of Minnesota.

T-5 advised that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was the leader of the American Youth Congress and also of the Young Communists League at the University of Minnesota, and that he had seen Miss MEDALIE at a Communist meeting in Minneapolis which he had attended.

T-6 informed that he knew that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was a member of the Young Communists League and the American Youth Congress; that she had admitted this; and that she had been active in radical organizations on the University of Minnesota campus. T-6 also informed that because of Miss MEDALIE'S admitted Communistic activities and sympathies, she was dismissed from the Editorial Board of the Minnesota Daily. He also said Miss MEDALIE has in the past led various groups and peace movement rallies, and has preached the doctrines of Communism on the University of Minnesota campus. He informed that her address while she attended the University of Minnesota was 3200 Humboldt Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

T-7 informed that he had had several conversations with Miss MEDALIE and had found her to be one of the most brilliant Stalinists that he had ever known. He stated that Miss MEDALIE was a Jewess, possessing an extremely brilliant mind; that she had been very active in the American Youth Congress and the Young Communists League on the Minnesota campus, and had often debated various issues, tending to reflect her Communistic viewpoint. Further, while she was in attendance at the University as a graduate student, she was on the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily, and from September, 1940, until December, 1940, she wrote, or supervised the writing of, many of the editorial articles appearing in this newspaper, many of which were very radical. T-7 informed that on one occasion he attended a Forum meeting at which Miss MEDALIE spoke and criticized the educational policies of members of the faculty at the University of Minnesota, whomshe called "warmongers," and defied them and their stand in causing the United States to be prepared for any future world conflict.

T-8 arranged for the writer to review copies of the Minnesota Daily in the library at the University of Minnesota, and pertinent information secured from some of these copies is being set out as follows:

100-2385

From the issue of Wednesday, November 22, 1939, page 5, an article appeared, headed "Peace Council to Discuss Bill. Ludlow Amendment is Forum Topic." This article reflects, in part, that "The All-University Peace Council will hold a discussion meeting on the Ludlow Amendment at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow in 104 Union. The meeting will be open to all. On Tuesday the Council will hold an open symposium on possible types of student action for peace. ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, member of the Executive Board, was named one of four students to prepare reports on various methods of acting for peace in the report on general conditions."

An article appeared in the Minnesota Daily of November 24, 1939, headed "Council Tables War Referendum." This article reflected "opposition to the resolution came from members of the Council who felt the war referendum would hamper the executives, control foreign policy, hinder the Army, and have a tendency to hasten the United States into war."

In an article of the Minnesota Daily, page 3, on November 28, 1939, which is headed, "Council Will Discuss Peace Moves Today," it is noted that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE is named as one of four who will discuss possible techniques for student peace demonstration, the pledge, and the peace march. Further, "University and high school students will combine forces this afternoon in the opening stage of the All-University Peace Council's drive to canvass campus opinion concerning peace demonstrations. They will meet at 3:30 p.m. in 211 Burton Hall for a roundtable discussion of effective peace techniques."

In the Minnesota Daily of Wednesday, November 29, 1939, under the heading "Peace Council Adopts Plank," it is noted that "Representatives from six Minneapolis high schools attended the meeting yesterday which was called to consider the most effective means of student action for peace. Reports were given by ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE,"

In the Minnesota Daily summer session edition, Wednesday, June 19, 1940, page 3, under the heading "Stay Out of War Conference Supports Academic Freedom," an article states, "The Stay Out of War Conference, sponsored in Minneapolis this week by forty-nine organizations, assured teachers and students who are now fighting to preserve their right to discover and speak the truth that they are not alone. It was stated that 'academic freedom is one of the first casualties of war,' and it was resolved to oppose 'any attempt by any person or group whatever to force faculty members and students to give once again lip service to a war hysteria which they know has no basis.'

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in fact, and which they know can end only in smashing that cornerstone of freedom on which all universities and colleges should be built and maintained.' Leading the crusade will be a Continuation Committee composed of the forty-nine sponsors of the conference, including ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, June graduate, and a leader in the National Youth Congress....."

The Minnesota Daily of Wednesday, July 10, 1940, reflects a heading, "Students Will Rally to Protest Proposed Conscription Act. University Peace Council Sponsors Meeting at Union Friday." The pertinent portion of this item is noted to be, "Sponsor of the rally protesting proposed national emergency conscription is the Continuation Committee of the All-University Peace Council."

Mr. GEORGE HIRSHBERG, owner of the two-story home at 3200 Humboldt Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, informed that the MEDALIE family had rented the upper portion of his home for a period of from one to two years. He stated that they always paid their rent promptly; that he was acquainted with ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE only by sight; that he never had any conversations with her, except, possibly, to pass the time of day; and that she left her home early in the morning and came home late in the afternoon or evening while she attended the University of Minnesota.

Mrs. A. W. SHAW, 3204 Humboldt Avenue, South, and Mrs. F. W. GILBERT and Miss OLSON, nurse, at 3208 Humboldt Avenue, South, Minneapolis, informed that they were not acquainted with the MEDALIE family; although they had lived in that neighborhood for a number of years.

- - R E F E R R E D U P O N C O M P L E T I O N - -

- - T O T H E O F F I C E O F O R I G I N - -

100-2385

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE MILWAUKEE FIELD OFFICE

AT OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

Will contact ROBERT NEUMANN, an instructor in political science at Oshkosh Teachers College, for information regarding subject's activities. It was reported by Father FORHEY, who is in charge of Catholic activities at the University of Minnesota campus, that Mr. NEUMANN was in attendance at the summer session, University of Minnesota, during the summer of 1942, and he believed that he would be in a position to furnish information concerning subject and her activities on the Minnesota campus prior to that time.

(Above lead was furnished by teletype to the Milwaukee Office September 17, 1942.)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

100-2385

T-1 is JOHN D. FOLEY, Dean of Students Office, University of Minnesota.

T-2 is Miss ANNE BLITZ, Dean of Women, University of Minnesota.

T-3 is Dr. EDWARD E. NICHOLSON, Dean of Student Affairs Emeritus, University of Minnesota, presently residing at 806 Superior Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

T-4 is Mr. WILLIAM KELTY, Public Relations Man of the Associated Industries, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

T-5 is [redacted]

T-6 is Mr. FRANKLIN PAGE, 2168 Carroll Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

T-7 is Father FORHEY, who is in charge of Catholic activities on the University of Minnesota campus.

T-8 is Mr. FRANK E. WALTER, Librarian, University of Minnesota.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO. 101-59

REPORT MADE AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	DATE WHEN MADE 10/5/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/26/42	REPORT MADE BY W. DIXON DOSSETT WDD/JJ
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: T-9 informed he attended University of Minnesota and had several classes with Subject, who was rather odd, but well-liked by students at that University; that he had talked with Subject many times concerning communism, and that Subject had told him that she was a communist, belonging to the Stalinists group as opposed to the Trotskyites; that Subject possesses a brilliant mind, has ability to argue communism without antagonizing the person she argues with; that he is of the opinion that Subject has had quite an influence on students at the University of Minnesota, and that because of her ability, she was a dangerous influence. T-9 states that he believes that Subject went to Duke University at Durham, North Carolina, after leaving the University of Minnesota.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Lee A. Beckstead, dated 9/22/42, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

DETAILS: The writer contacted T-9, who stated that he attended the University of Minnesota during the summer of 1942, and that he had formerly had classes with Subject. T-9 stated that the Subject is a Jewess, rather odd-looking, but well-liked by the students at the University of Minnesota. Further, that the Subject is an extremely intelligent person, being possessed of a brilliant mind, but there is no doubt that she is a "dyed-in-the-wool Communist"; that the Subject had, on several occasions, told him that she was a Communist, belonging to the Stalinists group as opposed to the Trotskyites.

T-9 stated further that Subject wrote for the Minnesota Daily, official organ of the student body of the University of Minnesota, and that her writings were very cleverly communistic in their general trend. Commenting on her ability as a writer, T-9 further stated

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101-59

that there could be no doubt in his mind that the Subject's writings and her individual discourse with the students at the University was very convincing because of her superior intellect, her ability (unlike most Communists) to argue the subject of Communism without antagonizing the person she argued with.

T-9 further states that he understands that the Subject went to Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, on a one-year Fellowship offered by that University, after she attended the University of Minnesota.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION-
TO THE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

101-59

U N D E V E L O P E D L E A D S

CHARLOTTE FIELD DIVISION

AT DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA:

Will conduct a discreet investigation at Duke University to determine Subject's activities in connection with communism at that institution.

101-59

~~KEY PAGE~~

T-9 is MR. ROBERT NEUMANN, Instructor in Political Science
at Oshkosh Teachers College, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO. 100-2385

REPORT MADE AT ST. PAUL	DATE WHEN MADE 10/19/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/16/42	REPORT MADE BY LEE A. BECKSTEAD
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: T-1 informed that records reveal ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE actively distributed literature at time of Peace Strike, University of Minnesota. This leaflet in part stated, "We must stop this Aid-to-Britain nonsense, which has gotten us no where but into the war"

R U C

DETAILS: T-1 informed that additional information had come to his attention since previous interview with the writer in that file #22 contained a memorandum dated April 24, 1941 as follows:

"The attached papers were distributed in some of the Auditorium at the time of the Peace Strike April 23. In addition some woman was trying to sell a booklet written by the Bishop of Canterbury and sponsored by the Communist Party.

"Miss Esther Medalie actively distributed the sheet #2. She was very active in the whole procedure.

"Sheet #4 was distributed in all of the Post Office boxes. The woman distributing the booklet is unidentified but unconfirmed statements indicate that she was the leader of the Miller Cafeteria Strike in Minnesota."

The booklet above referred to is described as being Vol. 6, #9, of Review, dated April 28, 1941, with a heading at the

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100-2385

side of the first page Youth's Fighting Magazine.

Sheet #2 mentioned above consists of a four page folder printed on all sides and has the heading "The Alternatives for American Students". Then in large bold type "Imperialism--or--People's Peace?"

Among other headings on Sheet 2 are "Will we get a New Social Order out of this War?" Under this heading there appears in part "How Then to Get Out of this War? But we must face the facts. We must stop this Aid-to-Britain nonsense, which has gotten us no where but into the war. . . ."

Sheet #2 is noted to contain a number of small printed cuts and forms of banners, some of which are quoted as follows: "Strike Against War"; "No Convoys"; "No AEF"; "Keep America Out of War"; "Free Speech".

Examination of sheet 2 revealed that it was published by the American Student Union, 381 4th Avenue, New York City.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-2385

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

T-1 Mr. JOHN D. FOLEY, Dean of Students Office, University of Minnesota.

File #22 is the file re Communist Club which is located in Mr. JOHN D. FOLEY's Office, Dean of Students Office, University of Minnesota.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 101-17 MKP

REPORT MADE AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-27-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-17, 22, 29-42	REPORT MADE BY DONALD S. SLAGLE
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject attended Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 1941-42 and had a fellowship offered to her for present year, 1942-43. She did not return and advised that she is presently employed by the New York Regional Office of the OPA, working in Brooklyn, New York. Her present address is 45 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, New York. No communistic activities noted at Duke University. No credit or criminal records at Durham, North Carolina.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent W. DIXON DOSSETT, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dated October 5, 1942.

DETAILS: AT DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. L. KNIGHT, Graduate School Records Room, Duke University, recalls that subject attended the University for the session of 1941-42. She had a scholarship at that time and is listed as a very good student. A fellowship was offered her for the present year, 1942-43, and they expected her to return; however, in September, 1942, she notified them that she is presently employed in the New York Regional Office of the Office of Price Administration, working in Brooklyn, New York, and living at 45 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, New York. Mrs. KNIGHT does not recall any evidence of communistic activities on the part of subject while she was a student at the University.

Miss LOUISE SEABOLT, Duke University, lives in the faculty apartments on the campus; she recalls that the subject also resided in the faculty apartments during 1941-42. Subject was a very quiet type and Miss SEABOLT has never heard

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anything derogatory concerning her. She knows nothing concerning any communistic activities on the part of subject while she was living in the faculty apartments.

The Durham Merchants Association has no credit record for the subject; their records were searched by Mrs. Virginia Elliott.

The Durham Police Department has no criminal record for subject, according to Mrs. Cheek and Detective J. D. Myers.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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100-108432 - 8
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EX-51

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATIONS

Pursuant to Public Law No. 644, 77th Congress, an investigation has been conducted concerning Esther Leah Medalie, an employee of the Office of Price Administration, Office for Emergency Management, at New York, New York. Accordingly, there are attached two copies of each of the following investigative reports:

Report of Special Agent Lee A. Beckstead dated September 22, 1942, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Report of Special Agent W. Dixon Dessaett dated October 5, 1942, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Report of Special Agent Lee A. Beckstead dated October 19, 1942, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Report of Special Agent Donald S. Slagle dated November 27, 1942, at Charlotte, North Carolina.

Report of Special Agent Edward F. Nummer dated January 11, 1943, at New York, New York.

Report of Special Agent Lee A. Beckstead dated March 8, 1943, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Report of Special Agent Franklin C. Jones, Jr., dated March 22, 1943, at Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. E.A. Tamm _____

Mr. Clegg _____ In order that the Bureau's report to Congress may be complete,
Mr. Coffey _____ I should greatly appreciate receiving the Committee's advice as to
Mr. Glavin _____ the ultimate disposition made of this matter.

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Rosen _____

Mr. Tracy _____

Mr. Carson _____

Mr. Harbo _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. McGuire Enclosure _____

Mr. Mumford _____

Mr. Piper _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION	MAILED	100-9474
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ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Lee A. Beckstead dated
September 22, 1942, at
St. Paul, Minnesota.

*Expect exec of new act
St. Paul sent by Department
Retain in file*

DETAILS:

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was born May 16, 1918, at Buhl, Minnesota. The records at the University of Minnesota, as furnished by T-1, reflected that she entered as a student September, 1936, and graduated in June, 1940, and also did graduate work in 1940. She belonged to Sigma Epsilon Sigma in 1937, which is an honorary society for sophomore women. She attended the American Student Union December, 1938. In 1940-41 she was elected a member to the Minnesota Students' Alliance, an organization which formerly was the American Student Union, and is reported to have sponsored lectures on topics that were in disrepute with University authorities during that time. In June, 1939, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, which is a national honorary

ENCLOSURE

100-108432-8

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
W. Dixon Dossett dated
October 5, 1942, at
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

DETAILS: The writer contacted T-9, who stated that he attended the University of Minnesota during the summer of 1942, and that he had formerly had classes with Subject. T-9 stated that the Subject is a Jewess, rather odd looking, but well liked by the students at the University of Minnesota. Further, that the Subject is an extremely intelligent person, being possessed of a brilliant mind, but there is no doubt that she is a "dyed-in-the-wool Communist"; that the Subject had, on several occasions, told him that she was a Communist, belonging to the Stalinists group as opposed to the Trotskyites.

T-9 stated further that Subject wrote for the Minnesota Daily, official organ of the student body of the University of Minnesota, and that her writings were very cleverly communistic in their general trend. Commenting on her ability as a writer, T-9 further stated

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Lee A. Beckstead dated
October 19, 1942, at
St. Paul, Minnesota.

DETAILS: T-1 informed that additional information had come to his attention since previous interview with the writer in that file #22 contained a memorandum dated April 24, 1941 as follows:

"The attached papers were distributed in front of the Auditorium at the time of the Peace Strike April 23. In addition some woman was trying to sell a booklet written by the Bishop of Canterbury and sponsored by the Communist Party.

"Miss Esther Medalie actively distributed the sheet #2. She was very active in the whole procedure.

"Sheet #4 was distributed in all of the Post Office boxes. The woman distributing the book is unidentified but unconfirmed statements indicate that she was the leader of the Miller Cafeteria Strike in Minnesota."

The booklet above referred to is described as being Vol. 6, #9, of Review, dated April 28, 1941, with a heading at the

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Donald S. Slagle dated
November 27, 1942, at
Charlotte, North Carolina.

DETAILS:

AT DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. L. KNIGHT, Graduate School Records Room, Duke University, recalls that subject attended the University for the session of 1941-42. She had a scholarship at that time and is listed as a very good student. A fellowship was offered her for the present year, 1942-43, and they expected her to return; however, in September, 1942, she notified them that she is presently employed in the New York Regional Office of the Office of Price Administration, working in Brooklyn, New York, and living at 45 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, New York. Mrs. KNIGHT does not recall any evidence of Communistic activities on the part of subject while she was a student at the University.

Miss LOUISE SEABOLT, Duke University, lives in the faculty apartments on the campus; she recalls that the subject also resided in the faculty apartments during 1941-42. Subject was a very quiet type and Miss SEABOLT has never heard

anything derogatory concerning her. She knows nothing concerning any communistic activities on the part of subject while she was living in the faculty apartments.

The Durham Merchants Association has no credit record for the subject; their records were searched by Mrs. Virginia Elliott.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Edward F. Hummer dated
January 11, 1943, at
New York, New York.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 101-366 EMC

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 1/11/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/29/30/42; 1/2, 8, 9/43.	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD F. HUMMER
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE is presently employed by OPA, NYC, since 6/8/42. Miss MEDALIE, while student at University of Minnesota, reported to be active in the American Youth Congress, Young Communist League, and member of Communist Party. Sources of information reveal employee was active in American Youth Congress and a leader in Young Communist League. Informants at place of employment have no knowledge of any subversive activity or affiliation of employee. Miss MEDALIE, on interview under oath, admits association with American Youth Congress, attending a convention of that organization held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Also admits attendance at "Study Groups" of Young Communist League during 1936-1937. Denies affiliation with Communist Party but admits receiving literature published or sponsored by Communist Party. Also admits "contact" with American Peace Mobilization, acting as volunteer, assisting in the organizing of the Minnesota delegation to A.P.M. in Chicago, 1940 which she attended as delegate.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 100-108432.

Bureau letter dated 9/5/42 to New York.

DETAILS:

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NY 101-366

I. PERSONAL HISTORY

A. Miss MEDALIE's application for employment indicates she was born May 16, 1918 at Buhl, Minnesota. She is therefore an American citizen. Her father was born in Russia and her mother was born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Her legal voting residence is Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Miss MEDALIE attended high school 1932 to 1933 at Chisholm, Minnesota and from 1933 to 1935, attended Washburn High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She received an A.B. degree "summa cum laude," in international relations from the University of Minnesota, June 1940. She took graduate courses in political science at the same university during the term 1940 to 1941. She attended Duke University 1941 to 1942, taking courses in Political Science. It is noted that she did her graduate work at both universities on honorary fellowships. She indicated that she has had three and one-half years experience in the editorial department of the Minnesota Daily.

B. Under the title of "Previous Employments", Miss MEDALIE listed the following:

- 1937-38: NYA Student Worker, University Testing Bureau, University of Minnesota, under MISS JOSEPHINE STEELE.
- 1938-39: NYA Student Worker, Public Administration, Training Senior, University of Minnesota, under MISS MYRTLE ECKLUND.
- 1939-40: NYA Student Worker, International Relations Bureau, University of Minnesota, under MR. ARDATH BURKS.
- 1940-41: Graduate Fellow in Political Science, University of Minnesota, under DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON.
- 1941: Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota, under DR. EARL G. LATHAM.
- 1941-42: Graduate Fellow in Political Science, Duke University, under DR. R. R. WILSON.

Miss MEDALIE entered on duty with the Office of Price Administration in New York City on June 8, 1942 in the Price Survey Division of the Office of Price Administration.

II. BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was reported to be active in the American Youth Congress, in the Young Communist League while attending the University of Minnesota.

III. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

DR. GEORGE SHIPMAN of the Office of Price Administration, Washington, D.C. advised Special Agent Manning C. Clements that he, DR. SHIPMAN, recommended Miss MEDALIE for her position in New York City. He stated that he was rather closely associated with her at Duke University for approximately one year. He stated he observed nothing in her connections that would indicate subversive ideas or affiliation. He recalled that in examining the papers in connection with Miss MEDALIE's fellowship, it was noted that she had been very active in student affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Special Agent Frederick H. Green checked the indices of the Dies Committee with negative results.

New York sources of information, hereinafter designated T-1, reflects that the American Youth Congress had been headed in Minnesota by ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE who was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota during 1941. This source reflected also that this organization had not been active in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area in the past two or three years. However, Minneapolis and St. Paul were well represented at the American Youth Congress Convention in July 1941 at Washington, D.C.

The same source revealed that this group was active on the University of Minnesota campus for a short period of time in 1940. It closely associated itself with all the peace groups and other such organizations; but with the entrance of Russia into the war, it went out of existence. This source reveals that the leader of this group was ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE who was reported to be a leader in the Young Communist League and who was alleged to have admitted her affiliation with both the American Youth Congress and the Young Communist League.

This source revealed that Miss MEDALIE was dismissed from the staff of the "Minnesota Daily" because of her attitude and her activities. Her last address was located at 3200 Humboldt Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. ANTHONY ANTOLINI of the Office of Price Administration, Empire State Building, New York, advised that nothing has come to his attention that would indicate that Miss ESTHER MEDALIE is subversively inclined or engaged in any activities inimical to the best interest of the United States. Her duties at the Office of Price Administration are more or less mechanical in nature and she has no supervision over other employees. At Mr. ANTOLINI's suggestion, a person hereinafter designated T-2 was interviewed.

Informant T-2 advised that while employed in New York City, Miss MEDALIE has not made any statement that would indicate that she is interested in Communism or the Communist Party or any Communist organization. To the informant's knowledge, Miss MEDALIE has not attended any rallies or meetings in New York City sponsored by the "so-called front organization or the Communist Party itself." The informant did state, however, that she heard

NY 101-366

from a friend of hers in Princeton, New Jersey that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was a member of the Communist Party and closely associated with the American Student Union while attending the University of Minnesota. The informant pointed out, however, that her information in this regard is purely hearsay but did come from a reliable source.

The informant stated that her source of information also revealed that while Miss MEDALIE was attending Duke University, she made an attempt to organize or form an American Student Union on the campus but without much success. The informant stated that the persons who associated with Miss MEDALIE at the Office of Price Administration are considered loyal American citizens and are not Communistically inclined.

The personnel records at the Office of Price Administration reflect that Miss MEDALIE resided at 1909 Avenue K, Brooklyn, New York.

Inquiry at this address revealed no information of value to this investigation, it being noted that Miss MEDALIE moved from this address over three months ago.

The postman who delivers mail at 1909 Avenue K, Brooklyn, advised that Miss MEDALIE did not receive any subversive literature through the mail or any literature sponsored by the Communist Party.

IV. INTERVIEW WITH EMPLOYEE

Miss MEDALIE was interviewed at the Offices of the New York Field Division on January 8, 1943. Her statement in question and answer form, taken under oath, is set out below. The original statement which Miss MEDALIE signed, initialing each page, is being retained in the offices of the New York Field Division.

ETH:EE NEW YORK, NEW YORK
1 January 8, 1943.

NY 101-366

STATEMENT OF ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
taken by

Special Agent Edward F.
Rummel in the presence
of Elizabeth M. Janis
Stenographer, on 1/8/43.

Miss Medalie, we have requested your voluntary appearance here today, not for the purpose of conducting a hearing but to afford you an opportunity to answer questions concerning the investigation currently being made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to allow you to make such statements as you might wish regarding this inquiry. As you probably are aware, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been directed by the 77th Congress of the United States under Public Law #135 to investigate employees of the federal government who are alleged to be members of subversive organizations or who may advocate the overthrow of this form of government. Under the provisions of this law, we are directed to report our findings directly to Congress. You may decline to answer any of the questions which may be propounded to you. Upon completion of this investigation, a copy of the report, which will reflect your statement will be forwarded to the agency by which you are employed. I might mention also after the notes of this interview have been transcribed, you will be given an opportunity to read it over for such changes as you might wish to make. In order that your statement may have particular credence, you will be placed under oath, if you have no objection to this procedure.

Q. Do you solemnly swear that the statement you give and the answers you give to the questions propounded, will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

A. I do.

Q. Miss Medalie, will you state your full name and address?
A. ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, 45 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn, New York.

Q. You are employed at the present time by the Office of Price Administration?

A. Yes.

Q. For how long?
A. Since June 6, 1942.

Q. Miss Medalie, are you now or have you ever been a member of any organization which advocates disloyalty to the Federal Government?

ELM

101-366

A. I am not and have not been.

Q. Are you a member of any organization which has for its purpose the overthrow of the Federal Government?
A. I am not.

Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member or associated with the American Youth Congress?
A. I have been associated with the American Youth Congress.

Q. In what capacity?
A. The American Youth Congress was a federated organization. As a member of the University of Minnesota Student Peace Council I attended meetings of the Minnesota Youth Assembly, the state organization of the American Youth Congress and one national meeting of the American Youth Congress.

Q. Where and when was the national meeting held?
A. It was held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in July, 1939 or 1940; I do not remember which year.

Q. Did you ever contribute any money toward the American Youth Congress?
A. I made no personal contributions. The organization to which I belonged paid an affiliation fee to the Youth Assembly.

Q. Were you ever a recipient or distribute any literature to the American Youth Congress?
A. Yes. I do not recall what material but I know from time to time I did distribute material which was published by the Youth Congress.

Q. Miss Medalie, were you or are you now a member of the Young Communist League?
A. I am not and was not.

Q. Did you ever attend any meetings of the Young Communist League?
A. During 1936, 1937, I attended some study groups held by the Young Communist League on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

Q. Did you donate any money or give any personal service to the Young Communist League?
A. No.

ENK

101-366

Q. I take it, from your answer, that you only attended some of the meetings or forum discussion groups?

A. Discussion groups—not meetings.

Q. Are you now, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. No.

Q. I take it by your answer you never attended any of the meetings of any branch of the Communist Party?

A. That's right.

Q. Have you ever been a recipient of any literature published or sponsored by the Communist Party?

A. I received some through the mail.

Q. Could you give us some idea of what they comprised?

A. Pamphlets on negroes and some of the foreign policies proposed by the Communist Party at one time or another.

Q. That was prior to June 22, 1941?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you ever or are you now a member of the organization known as American Peace Mobilization or the American People's Mobilization?

A. Yes, I was. That was not a membership organization but I had contact with it.

Q. Did you take part in any of the activities of the American Peace Mobilization?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you describe what these activities were?

A. During one summer I worked as a volunteer for about six weeks assisting in the organizing of the Minnesota delegation to the meetings called the American Peace Mobilization in Chicago.

Q. That was in 1940? September of that year?

A. Yes. I did not remember if it was 1940 or 1941.

Q. Did you ever attend, as a delegate, that convention or any other convention of the American Peace Mobilization?

A. I attended that meeting, the Chicago meeting of the American Peace Mobilization.

EM J

101-366

Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of any organization which you have reason to believe is dominated by or controlled by the Communist Party?
A. To my knowledge, none of the organizations of which I was a member or with which I had contact was dominated by the Communist Party.

Q. I have no further questions to ask you unless you wish to make any statement which you deem pertinent?
A. I have only one additional comment to make. That is that since September, 1941 I have had no contact whatsoever with any of the organizations named in the text of this memorandum. Furthermore, my contacts with them were on a decreasing scale from June, 1940 until September, 1941.

Signed: Esther Leah Medalie
ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE

Witnessed:

/s/ Edward F. Hummer
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New York.

- C L O S E D . -

NY 101-366

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identity of confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent Edward F. Hummer dated January 11, 1943, New York City, are as follows:

- T-1 Report of Special Agent J. W. Mowbray dated February 26, 1942 at St. Paul, Minnesota entitled Communist Party in the State of Minnesota, Internal Security (R), and the report of Special Agent T.W. Perrin dated August 25, 1941 at St. Paul, Minnesota entitled American Youth Congress, Internal Security (C.)
- T-2 Mrs. ANN P. FLOREY, Office of Price Administration, Empire State Building, New York City.

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Lee A. Beckstead dated
March 8, 1943, at
St. Paul, Minnesota.

DETAILS: T-1 informed that after searching the records in his office, he could not find any record of subject's being removed from the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily because of alleged Communistic activities and sympathies. He said he had interviewed a number of University officials, and it was the consensus of opinion that she had not been removed for this cause. T-1 stated, however, that it was known generally that subject was extremely liberal in her views, and was very active on the campus. He suggested that T-14 should be able to furnish information in this regard.

T-6 informed that he worked on the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily during the season of 1940-41 at the University of Minnesota. He insists that subject was removed from the editorial board because of alleged Communistic activities and sympathies. He furnished the names of T-10 and T-11, who he said should know the details of her removal and could be helpful in this matter. However, T-6 stated that T-10 and T-11 had criticized him because of

ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Report of Special Agent
Franklin C. Jones, Jr.,
dated March 22, 1943,
at Cleveland, Ohio.

DETAILS: AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

VICTOR COHN, Yeoman Second Class, United States Naval Reserve Training School (Diesel), Cleveland, Ohio, was interviewed by Special Agent MILTON L. HUBER and the writer and furnished a signed statement which is being retained in the files of the Cleveland Field Division.

In this statement COHN advised that he attended the University of Minnesota from September, 1937, to June, 1941. During the school year 1940-1941, COHN was editor of the Minnesota Daily, the University student

REGS
100-108432

Date: February 25, 1943. 62929
To: SAC, St. Paul

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
Office of Price Administration
INTERNAL SECURITY, Hatch Act

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Lee A. Beckstead dated September 22, 1942, at St. Paul, Minnesota, in connection with this case. A review of this report reflects a statement on page four to the effect that this subject was dismissed from the Editorial Board of the Minnesota Daily because of alleged Communist activities and sympathies. In this regard, there has apparently been no attempt to verify this report and it is the Bureau's desire that this be immediately handled. It is noted that this information was submitted by informant T-6, who is Mr. Franklin Page, 2168 Carroll Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota. However, there is no descriptive data furnished with regard to Mr. Page which would clarify this particular information for the Bureau. If Mr. Page was at one time an official at the University of Minnesota this information will of course be extremely pertinent and valuable to this investigation.

You are directed to assign this matter for immediate attention so that this allegation will be thoroughly investigated and a report submitted to the Bureau within the very near future.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
For your information, the New York Office has recently completed investigation of this matter and accordingly it is desired that every effort be made by your office to complete this investigation within the very near future.

Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

✓ COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 13
★ FEB 26 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

REC'D FEB 100-1084
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 1 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

19 MAR 6 1943 341

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGIN: NEW YORK

File No. 100-2385

Report Made At: ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA	Date Made: 3/8/43	Period: 3/3, 4/43	Report Made By: LEE A. BECKSTEAD, SA(A) FAB
Title: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	Character: INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT		

SYNOPSIS: T-1 informs no record of subject's being dismissed from editorial staff because of alleged Communist activities and sympathies. T-6 says he worked with subject on editorial staff in 1940-41, and insists it was known generally that she was removed, although it is possible others would not admit it. Suggests T-14 and T-15 might remember this fact.

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated 2/25/43 to St. Paul.
Report of SA(A) LEE A. BECKSTEAD, St. Paul, dated 9/22/42.

DETAILS: T-1 informed that after searching the records in his office, he could not find any record of subject's being removed from the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily because of alleged Communistic activities and sympathies. He said he had interviewed a number of University officials, and it was the consensus of opinion that she had not been removed for this cause. T-1 stated, however, that it was known generally that subject was extremely liberal in her views, and was very active on the campus. He suggested that T-14 should be able to furnish information in this regard.

T-6 informed that he worked on the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily during the season of 1940-41 at the University of Minnesota. He insists that subject was removed from the editorial board because of alleged Communistic activities and sympathies. He furnished the names of T-10 and T-11, who he said should know the details of her removal and could be helpful in this matter. However, T-6 stated that T-10 and T-11 had criticized him because of

Approved and
Forwarded:

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Copies *1208*

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RECORDED

- (5) - Bureau
- 2 - Cleveland
- 2 - New York
- 2 - Salt Lake City
- 2 - St. Paul

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5/12/43 ESS LEADS & INFO DETACHED

100-2385

his testifying in a case in which he told the truth, and it was possible that they might not reveal the complete details in instant matter because of their positions.

T-6 further informed that he had talked with subject MEDALIE on a number of occasions, and she admitted at various times that she was a member of the Communist Party and was active in that organization.

T-6 also informed that T-14 and T-15, who were also on the editorial staff at that time, should be in a position to recall the circumstances of subject MEDALIE's removal from the staff at that time.

T-10 and T-11 were interviewed, but were somewhat vague in their remarks, saying that subject MEDALIE was on the editorial staff during 1940 and '41, but said they had no knowledge or record that she had been removed or dismissed from the Board for the above reasons. Both stated that subject MEDALIE was an outstandingly brilliant student, but admitted that she was reported to have Communistic sympathies and was active on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

T-10 and T-11 stated that T-6 was on the staff at the same time as subject MEDALIE, in 1940-41, but that he had "gotten off on the wrong foot" when he testified in a particular case, and they believed that T-6 had opinions somewhat to the extreme opposite of those of subject MEDALIE.

T-11 stated he would class subject MEDALIE as a "New Dealer." He said she had never offended the Board in any of her articles, and he had had no trouble with her editorials.

T-12 informed that subject MEDALIE had majored in political science. He was not familiar with her activities, but knew that she was a strong supporter of the Soviet Union, and liberal in her views. However, he could produce no evidence to bear out this information.

T-13 informed that subject had majored in political science, specializing in Latin-American, and had a brilliant mind. He further informed that subject MEDALIE was radical in her views toward the Soviet Union, although he did not have any definite proof. It was generally known that she was very sympathetic toward the Communist cause. He said he thinks by this time she is more mature and may have grown out of her tendencies, although he does not know.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

100-2385

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CLEVELAND FIELD DIVISION:

AT LAKWOOD, OHIO:

At 17460 Shaw Avenue, will interview Mr. VICTOR COHN, who was the Editor of the Minnesota Daily at the University of Minnesota during the season 1940-41. T-6 has informed that Mr. COHN would no doubt recall that subject MEDALIE was removed from the editorial staff because of her Communistic activities and sympathies. Although it may not have been made a matter of permanent record, this was the general belief at that time. Mr. COHN should be interviewed and requested to furnish all information in his possession regarding the above details. It is requested that Mr. COHN be contacted immediately, inasmuch as it has been reported he might possibly move from the above address to attend Officers Training Camp within the next week, or possibly sooner.

SALT LAKE CITY FIELD DIVISION:

AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH:

T-6 has informed that Mr. PHIL SCHEIDERMAYER is a Special Agent of this Bureau presently located at Sale Lake City. T-6 also informs that Agent SCHEIDERMAYER was on the staff of the Minnesota Daily during the year 1940-41, when subject was removed from the staff because of her Communistic activities and sympathies. T-6 states that because it was general talk at that time, agent SCHEIDERMAYER might possibly recall the circumstances and incidents pertaining to this removal. It is requested that Agent SCHEIDERMAYER furnish complete details concerning this matter, and any other information concerning subject that may be in his possession.

In order to expedite the above leads as requested by the Bureau, letters have been written to the above field offices requesting data.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

100-2385

Informant T-1 is Mr. JOHN D. FOLEY, Dean of Students' Office, University of Minnesota.

T-6 is Mr. FRANKLIN PAGE, 2168 Carroll Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. PAGE worked on the editorial staff of the Minnesota Daily with subject in 1940-41. He graduated from the University of Minnesota March 19, 1942, since which time he has been employed with the United Press in St. Paul, Minnesota. A review of the file #100-1246 in the St. Paul Office, entitled "JAMES P. CANNON, et al, Socialist Workers Party, Trotskyites, 4th International; Internal Security - R," reveals that Mr. PAGE testified for the Government at the trial of 28 members of the Socialist Workers Party in St. Paul in November, 1941. Mr. PAGE testified that he attended the meeting when GRACE CARLSON, one of the defendants, spoke. She was formerly connected with the Board of Regents at the University of Minnesota, and was convicted December 1, 1941, and sentenced to serve 16 months in the Federal penitentiary. Mr. PAGE testified he had attended the meeting at which GRACE CARLSON spoke, and had written up his column containing her exact words in a speech she made before some group at the University of Minnesota, but Mr. PAGE said he was obliged by some of the officials to tone down the article. This is the case referred to by T-10 and T-11 in which they criticized him for furnishing the information given by him.

T-10 is Mr. MITCHELL V. CHARNLEY, Professor of Journalism and also Faculty Advisor on the Student Board of Publications at the University of Minnesota.

T-11 is Dr. RALPH T. CASEY, Chairman of the Journalists' Department at the University of Minnesota.

T-12 is Mr. EVRON KIRKPATRICK, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota.

T-13 is Mr. HAROLD S. QUIGLEY, Professor of Political Science, at the University of Minnesota.

T-14 is Mr. VICTOR COHN, who was Editor of the Minnesota Daily during the year 1940-41 at the University of Minnesota.

T-15 is Mr. PHIL SCHEIDERAYER, reported by T-6 to be on the editorial staff during the year 1940-41 of the Minnesota Daily at the University of Minnesota. Mr. SCHEIDERAYER also is reported to be a Special Agent of the FBI now located in the Salt Lake City Field Division.

100-3685

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Butte, Montana
March 19, 1943

X Director, FBI

Re: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE;
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION;
INTERNAL SECURITY - HATCH ACT

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from the St. Paul Field Division to Salt Lake City, dated March 4, 1943, in which it was stated that one FRANKLIN PAGE, 2168 Carroll Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, had stated in the course of the investigation in the above captioned subject that Special Agent PHILIP L. SCHIEDERMAYER, now assigned the Butte Field Division, was in possession of information regarding the Subject.

Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER has advised me that information in his possession regarding the Subject is for the most part hearsay, but that all the information in his possession is being forwarded, inasmuch as it may aid the future investigation of this case. It is believed that FRANKLIN PAGE was in error in his statement regarding the fact that Subject MEDALIE was dismissed by the Editorial Board of the Minnesota Daily in January or February, 1941. It is believed that her services as Editorial Director were terminated sometime in the Fall of 1940 and that she was succeeded by GEORGE K. PRITCHARD, for whom Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER was an editorial writer until approximately the 20th of January, 1941, at which time PRITCHARD left the Minnesota Daily staff to become editor of the Minnesota Leader, labor newspaper. PRITCHARD is now believed to be a Senior Analyst in the office of Facts and Figures, Library of Congress Annex, Washington, D. C. At approximately this time Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER was appointed Acting Editorial Director and served in that capacity until his graduation in March, 1941.

It is the belief of Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER that the Subject was a Communist at that time but he doubts that her dismissal as Editorial Director was caused by any Communist affiliation on her part, inasmuch as her successor, GEORGE K. PRITCHARD, was, in the estimation of Agent SCHIEDERMAYER, no less a Leftist, if not a Communist. Therefore, it does not appear likely that she was dismissed for this reason.

It is also to be noted that the editorial policy of the Minnesota Daily at this time was extremely to the Left, and that the tag "Imperialist War" was attached to the existing conflict at that time; that RUSSIA was 1943 eulogized whenever possible and that the editor, VICTOR COHN, was definitely



51 APR 4 1943

C. I. F. COPIES DESTROYED 12-30-58 KZWB

Director

Re: Esther Lech Medalie;
Office of Price Administration;
Internal Security - Hatch Act

March 19, 1943

a Liberal also. Therefore, it would seem likely that Professor MITCHELL V. CHARNLEY and Dr. RALPH D. CASEY, of the Journalism Department at the University, were presenting the facts as they were. However, it is the opinion of Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER, from his contact over a period of three years with the above mentioned professors, that CHARNLEY is not opposed to Leftist thinking, though it is not believed that he is an actual Communist or an active fellow traveler. Dr. CASEY is not regarded as "pink" but as one who is probably not too well acquainted with these particular activities in his own department.

It is further believed that Subject MEDALIE continued her contact with the editorial department of the Minnesota Daily after she left the staff, and that during the period that PRITCHARD was the Editorial Director it is believed quite possible that she still contributed editorials to this newspaper. It is the belief of Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER that Subject MEDALIE was affiliated with the American Youth Congress, and was probably one of the leading figures in this group. It has been impossible to recall whether the Subject was a member of the Young Communist League but Agent SCHIEDERMAYER does recall that in May, 1939 or 1940, a mass meeting was held by the American Peace Mobilization at the auditorium on the campus. The slogan of this meeting was "the Yanks are not coming". It is recalled that Subject MEDALIE was affiliated with this peace group as well as other peace movements on the campus. In this regard it is to be noted that the files of the Minnesota Daily will undoubtedly carry this information, including whether Subject MEDALIE was affiliated with the Youth Congress, inasmuch as the activities of this group on the campus were given liberal publicity and there was no attempt to cover up the activities of this group.

Agent SCHIEDERMAYER further advised that it was common knowledge on the campus that the Subject was a Communist, and was regarded as the most important Communist figure on the campus throughout the years 1940 and 1941. She is known to have on several occasions engaged in arguments with the members of the R.O.T.C., as well as followers of the Fourth International. It is also known that Subject MEDALIE and members of the Trotskyites were rarely on speaking terms as a result of their clashes over their Communist thinking.

During the Fall of 1940, prior to the Presidential election, a mock political rally was held in the field house of the University of Minnesota, and though the Agent's recollection of the various political parties represented is dim, it is believed that the Subject was the mock campaign leader for the Browder forces. A full resume of this political rally can be found in the files of the Minnesota Daily.

Director

-3-

March 19, 1943

Re: Esther Leah Medalie;
Office of Price Administration;
Internal Security - Hatch Act

Special Agent SCHIEDERMAYER attended classes in the Theories of International Relations under Professor HAROLD S. QUIGLEY and a Seminar in Twentieth Century European History under Professor HAROLD DEURTH with the Subject, as well as being a member of the International Relations Club to which the Subject belonged. It is recalled by him that the Subject's attitude was pro-Communist at all times in any discussion which arose; however, due to the period of time which has elapsed since then the Agent can recall no specific statements by her.

The Subject is believed to have been a political science major and in contact quite regularly with Professor BENJAMIN LIPPINCOTT, who it is believed is a known Communist and listed in the files of the St. Paul Field Division.

The above information includes all that which Agent SCHIEDERMAYER has been able to recall at this time regarding the Subject. It is suggested that other members of the Board of Publications for the year 1940-41 may be more willing to give the exact reason why the Subject was relieved as Editorial Director. It is noted by Agent SCHIEDERMAYER that several of these Board members are presently serving in the armed forces and are not in this country. It is believed that there are perhaps one or more feminine members of that Board who would be available for questioning. It is to be observed, however, that there were other members of the Board of Publications, who were Leftists and care should be taken before interviewing any of these former members.

It is further suggested that Professors THOMAS F. BARNHART, of the Journalism Department, and OTTO OUALE, now affiliated with the National Scholastic Press Association, also in the Journalism Department at Minnesota, may be able to offer some further light on the subject of MEDALIE's dismissal and they are believed by Agent SCHIEDERMAYER to be thoroughly reliable.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth Logan
KENNETH LOGAN
SAC

PLS:DC

cc-New York
cc-St. Paul

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Salt Lake City, Utah
March 19, 1943

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off
DIRECTOR, FBI

Dear Sir:

Re: ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
INTERNAL SECURITY
HATCH ACT

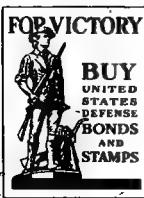
Reference is made to the report of Special Agent (A) LEE A. BECKSTEAD dated at St. Paul, Minnesota March 8, 1943 which sets forth a lead for Special Agent PHIL SCHIEDERMAYER to furnish complete details regarding the subject's removal from the staff of the Minnesota Daily as Agent SCHIEDERMAYER was also attached to the staff of this paper at the same time as the subject.

The copies of the report designated for Salt Lake City are being forwarded to the Butte Field Division with a copy of this letter, as Agent SCHIEDERMAYER has been transferred to that division.

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN
Special Agent in Charge

LCN:1sh
cc-St. Paul
cc-Butte (Encls.)
cc-New York



C.I.F.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO. 101-80

REPORT MADE AT Cleveland, Ohio	DATE WHEN MADE 3-22-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-12-43	REPORT MADE BY FRANKLIN C. JONES, JR. /jeh
TITLE ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

VICTOR COHN advises that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was not removed from position as Editorial Director of Minnesota Daily because of communist activities. COHN reports subject often spoke favorably of the Communist system and was a strong admirer of Russia. Reported that subject was active in the American Youth Congress movement and in the Marxists Club, a campus organization at the University of Minnesota.

-RUC-

REFERENCES:

Letter to the Cleveland Field Division from the St. Paul Field Division dated March 4, 1943.

Report of Special Agent LEE A. BECKSTEAD (A) dated March 8, 1943, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

DETAILS:

AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

VICTOR COHN, Yeoman Second Class, United States Naval Reserve Training School (Diesel) Cleveland, Ohio, was interviewed by Special Agent MILTON L. HUBER and the writer and furnished a signed statement which is being retained in the files of the Cleveland Field Division.

In this statement COHN advised that he attended the University of Minnesota from September, 1937, to June, 1941. During the school year 1940-1941 COHN was

1942. During the school year 1940-1941, COHN was
Editor-in-Chief of the Minnesota Daily, the University student

LBT

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<i>W.W. SP 2 TE 6W, 73 L.V. Boardman</i>		<i>100-108432-73</i>	RECORDED & INDEXED <i>D 194</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ARE HELD IN THE BUREAU DIVISION		<i>17 MAR 26 1943</i> REC'D BY RECORDED INDEXED <i>EX-41</i>	
⑤ - Bureau 2 - New York 2 - St. Paul 2 - Cleveland 2 cc 92 JUSTICE 5/12/43 ES S			

~~60 APR 13 1943~~

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101-80

newspaper publication. He stated that at the beginning of the 1940-1941 school year, he appointed one ~~GEORGE~~ PRITCHARD to the position of Editorial Director of the paper for that year.

Due to outside activities, PRITCHARD was unable to assume his duties for the first few weeks of the school year and accordingly, COHN appointed ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE to act as Editorial Director in his place until such time as PRITCHARD would be able to assume these duties.

COHN recalled that Miss MEDALIE served in the capacity of Editorial Director from the last week in September through the first week of November, 1940. At this time ~~GEORGE~~ PRITCHARD was able to assume the duties of his position and Miss MEDALIE ceased to have any further connection with the paper. COHN stated emphatically that she was not discharged or dismissed because of any Communist activity on her part.

COHN stated further he was casually acquainted with Miss MEDALIE through their work on the paper during the school year of 1938-1939. He had little or no contact with her during the 1939-1940 school year but at the beginning of the school year of 1940-1941, he was in close contact with her while she was acting as Editorial Director of the paper.

COHN stated he has not seen or heard of her since his graduation from the University of Minnesota in June, 1941.

COHN recalled Miss MEDALIE wrote editorials for the Minnesota Dailey on political subjects and foreign affairs. She spoke favorably of the Communist system as followed in Russia and was a strong admirer of Russia.

He further stated while she was on the paper in 1940 he had heard a rumor on the campus to the effect that she was a member of the Communist Party. He stated that Father FORREY, Head of the Newman Foundation in the University of Minnesota, accused her of being a Communist about this time.

COHN advised that Miss MEDALIE was active in the American Youth Congress movement while at the University and Miss MEDALIE herself told him of attending one convention of this organization. It is COHN's belief she attended several other conventions of this organization also. COHN did not have any information regarding Miss MEDALIE's alleged membership in the Young Communist League. He stated, however, he recalled vaguely at one time there was a Marxists Club on the Campus of the University of Minnesota for the purpose of studying the principles of Marxist Socialism. It is COHN's belief Miss MEDALIE Was a member of this organization.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

C
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OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM

To: Interdepartmental Committee on
Employee Investigations

From: Prentiss M. Brown (s) Prentiss M. Brown
Administrator

Subject: Esther Leah Medalie

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 9300, dated February 12, 1943, the Office of Price Administration wishes to report the procedures followed and action taken on the case of

Esther Leah Medalie

A Committee appointed by me has examined the evidence gathered on this case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Civil Service Commission, and from other sources and forwarded to our Office, and after weighing it, has made its recommendations to this Office.

Pursuant to the Committee's recommendation,

Esther Leah Medalie

Has been exonerated by this Office from the charges of being a subversive person.

ENCLOSURE

100-108432-14

Ind

8/2

Interdepartmental Committee on Employee Investigations

Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

July 23, 1943.

HERBERT E. GASTON, CHAIRMAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
RUDOLPH M. EVANS, VICE CHAIRMAN
MEMBER, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
FRANCIS C. BROWN
SOLICITOR, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
JOHN Q. CANNON, JR.
LEGAL ADVISOR, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
OSCAR L. CHAPMAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
EDWIN D. DICKINSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Chavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Nosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Your memorandum of May 12, 1943, enclosing seven investigative reports made pursuant to Public Law 644, 77th Congress, concerning Esther Leah Medalie, an employee of the Office of Price Administration at New York City, was received in due course. A copy of each report was forwarded to the Administrator of the Office of Price Administration with the request that the Interdepartmental Committee be advised as to disposition taken.

*Noted
7-23-43*

Under date of June 29, 1943, Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown has advised that after examination of the evidence gathered on this case Esther Leah Medalie has been exonerated by that agency from the charges of being a subversive person. A copy of Mr. Brown's memorandum of June 29, 1943, is enclosed for your files.

Respectfully,

Herbert E. Gaston
Herbert E. Gaston,
Chairman.

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EX - 46

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100-108432 -14

August 16, 1943

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Special Agent in Charge
New York, New YorkRE: COMMUNIST SPY SPYING
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
INTERNAL SECURITY - SMUGGLING ACT

Dear Sir:

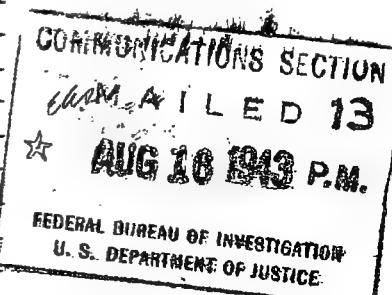
For your information and the completion of your files this is to advise that the above-mentioned government agency has advised the Bureau, after a review of the report submitted by your office, that no administrative action is being taken against the subject of this investigation.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____ CC - St. Paul
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Kramer _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Gandy 30



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Director, FBI

September 10, 1954

SAC, Minneapolis (100-10617)

MAURICE RITZ
SM - C
(OO - Milwaukee)

Reference is made to Milwaukee letter to Director dated August 9, 1954, on captioned subject, who is being investigated by the Milwaukee Office under the provisions of the Delimitations Agreement.

By letter dated August 25, 1954, the Minneapolis Office advised Milwaukee that the subject's wife was formerly ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, who was the subject of investigation by various offices in 1942 and 1943 under the caption, "ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE, OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION, INTERNAL SECURITY - HATCH ACT." The New York Office, as the last known office of origin, was requested by Minneapolis letter dated August 25, 1954, to forward to the Milwaukee Office copies of all reports on subject's wife suitable for dissemination.

There are enclosed herewith for the Bureau and Milwaukee copies of the report of SA RICHARD W. MAHLER dated September 10, 1954, at Minneapolis on subject's wife. This report includes all information on the subject's wife which has not been previously reported.

As indicated in Minneapolis letter dated August 25, 1954, the files of the Minneapolis Office contain no information on MAURICE RITZ. RUC.

RWM:mlm
Enclosure - 5
Registered Mail

cc: 2 - Milwaukee (100-7071) (Encl. 4) (RM)
1 - Mpls. file 100-2385

100-7071-432-1
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100 SEP 14 1954 ORIGINAL
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ORIGINAL FILE IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MILWAUKEE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT MINNEAPOLIS	DATE WHEN MADE 9/10/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/16, 20, 24, 25/54	REPORT MADE BY RICHARD W. MAHLER mlm
TITLE "CHANGED" ESTHER LEAH RITZ, nee Medalie, wa. Mrs. Maurice Ritz		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject presently resides with her husband, MAURICE RITZ, at 3283 North Maryland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. MAURICE RITZ born 7/14/11 at Hibbing, Minnesota. ESTHER RITZ described as being the most respected person in the Campus YCL, University of Minnesota, in the late 1930's. ESTHER RITZ also described as a Communist sympathizer on the basis of statements by other people concerning ESTHER RITZ.

- R U C -

DETAILS

The title of this report is being marked changed to include the subject's married name, Mrs. MAURICE RITZ.

BACKGROUNDResidence

Minneapolis confidential informant T-1, of known reliability, advised on August 20, 1954, that the subject is the wife of MAURICE RITZ and resides at 3283 North Maryland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ENCLOSURE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		100-108932 SE 25	
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MURIEL EASTMAN, Deputy State Registrar, Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, St. Paul, Minnesota, advised Certificate No. 25636-11, filed August 4, 1911, indicates that MAURICE RITZ was born July 14, 1911, at Hibbing, Minnesota.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND
THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

The Communist Party and the Young Communist League are organizations which have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Minneapolis confidential informant T-2, of known reliability, advised on January 19, 1954, that he was a former member of the Young Communist League while at the University of Minnesota in the late 1930's. T-2 advised that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE was the most respected person in the Campus Young Communist League, that she was very friendly and courteous, and was a person who was both intelligent and capable. Informant said she did not have much personal ambition, but was always being pushed into the role of leader by the other people. Informant stated he believed that the other Young Communist League members had hopes of her eventually becoming an important person in the "left wing" movement, and she was believed by informant to have attended one or two Young Communist League conventions.

T-2 recalled having seen the subject in about 1943 or 1944 in New York City, where the subject had an excellent position with the O.P.A. and worked in the Empire State Building. Informant stated he had heard sometime later from an unrecalled source that the subject had been asked to resign her government job because of her "radical record."

T-2 said that shortly after that the subject married MAURICE RITZ, a childhood friend from northern Minnesota who later became an accountant in Milwaukee. The informant said that since her marriage the subject had become busy being a mother and housewife

her current interests and activities and learned she was doing nothing outside her home.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

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[redacted] afraid to go in for any sort of public activity because of the possibility of her past record being brought to light and thereby jeopardizing her husband's professional interests.

Minneapolis confidential informant T-3, of known reliability, advised on October 22, 1953,

[redacted]
[redacted] believed MEDALIE was a member of the Communist Party on the basis of conversations informant had with other [redacted] Communist Party members, and in addition recalled that ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE attended a party for JANET ROSS, [redacted] before ROSS went to the Soviet Union with her husband, NAT ROSS.

NAT ROSS was publicly known in 1938 and 1939 as State Secretary for the Communist Party in Minnesota.

T-3 advised on August 16, 1954, that after giving the matter further thought, [redacted] the subject frequently dated one PAUL ROCHEITT

[redacted] The informant does not recall the subject ever specifically admitting Communist Party membership, but recalls seeing her at a LENIN memorial meeting and from other comments made by various party members, the informant said there was no question that the subject was at that time completely sympathetic with the Communist Party. The informant further recalled that PAUL ROCHEITT was known as a Communist Party member, and informant said that in 1939 ROCHEITT was brought up on charges by the Communist Party and expelled for his attitudes and actions toward other party members. Informant was under the impression that the subject may have later married PAUL ROCHEITT, who was believed by informant to have gone back to New York City.

T-3 [redacted] has no information concerning the subject's party affiliation, if any, since about 1941.

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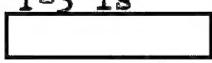
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MP 100-2385

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ESTHER LEAH RITZ is the wife of MAURICE RITZ, subject of Milwaukee file 100-7071, Minneapolis file 100-10617. MAURICE RITZ is currently being investigated by the Milwaukee Office under the Delimitations Agreement, since he, as secretary-treasurer of the Hamilton-Hall Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, may be granted clearance for access to classified Army contracts.

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or</u>	<u>Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-1 is pretext phone call to the M. A. MEDALIE residence, 3532 Humboldt Ave., Mpls.	8/20/54		8/20/54	RICHARD W. MAHLER	Instant report
T-2 is 	YCL activity		1/19/54	DONALD E. JONES & GEORGE W. SMITH (San Francisco)	MP 100-5733-7
T-3 is 	ESTHER LEAH MEDALIE		10/22/53	JOHN J. PRAMIK & RICHARD W. MAHLER (oral)	100-1878- 2611, P3
"			8/16/54	RICHARD W. MAHLER (oral)	Instant report

MP 100-2385

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

REFERENCES

Milwaukee letter to Director dated 8/9/54, entitled "MAURICE RITZ, SECURITY MATTER - C."

Minneapolis letter to Milwaukee dated 8/25/54, entitled "MAURICE RITZ, SM - C."

October 16, 1957

AIRTEL

SAC, Milwaukee (138-304)

DR. LESTER BRESLOW, UN

Esther Leah Ritz 28-9-1
Reference is made to your airtel dated 10-9-57 which requested Bureau authority to interview Esther Ritz and Ada Bloomy Kahn concerning captioned individual under EO 10422.

You are authorized to interview these individuals pursuant to your request. Interviews should be conducted in accordance with regulations set forth in Section 87-D, Manual of Instructions, and should be confined to activities of Breslow under UN Loyalty Program. However, should sources volunteer pertinent information concerning their own or activities of others, this should of course be received.

Handle promptly.

Hoover

138-4044

NOTE:

Bureau is conducting full field investigation of Breslow under UN Loyalty Order, based upon data available that he was a Communist Party or Young Communist League member at the University of Minnesota in late 1930's or early 1940's.

Milwaukee Office has requested Bureau authority to interview Esther Ritz and Ada Bloomy Kahn concerning Breslow's activities during this period.

Bureau files reflect previous SM-C investigation on Esther Ritz, closed in 1954, which indicates that she attended University of Minnesota 1936-40. During this time she was reportedly a leader in the Young Communist League movement at

cc: 1 - Subversive Control Section (Re Esther Ritz and Ada Bloomy Kahn)

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Airtel to SAC, Milwaukee
Re: DR. LESTER BRESLOW

University of Minnesota. She was interviewed by Bureau in Hatch Act investigation during 1943, at which time she admitted activities in the American Youth Congress and the American Peace Mobilization. Investigation also reveals that she has been in contact with several Communist Party functionaries.

Concerning Ada Bloomy Kahn, Bureau files revealed SM-C case, closed in 1953. Kahn was interviewed by Bureau during 1953 and admitted prior Communist Party membership, though she pointed out she terminated all connections with the Communist Party in 1948. Kahn attended University of Minnesota 1931-32, and 1935-36.

There appears to be no reason why the above sources should not be interviewed concerning captioned individual under EO 10422, and authority requested by Milwaukee is being granted.